

FRENCH HALT NEW FORT VAUX DRIVE

German Attempt to Turn the Positions From the South-East Fails.

3 AEROS BROUGHT DOWN

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, June 4.—Preparations were made by the German today for the attack on the Verdun front, one on the west bank of the Meuse, in the region of Hill 304, and the other against the Bois Pommier, northwest of Fort Vaux, on the east bank.

The first of these attacks was stopped by the French barrier fire before it was launched from the German trenches in the Bois Pommier, northwest of Fort Vaux, on the east bank. The second, delivered against the slopes of the wooded hill, was broken down by the French machine gun fire.

Of a group of German aeroplanes which were brought down today and were chased by a French squadron, one was brought down in the French lines and two others were forced to alight abruptly in the German lines.

The night communiqué follows: In the Argonne an enemy attempt against one of our positions in the Courtes Chaussees was repulsed. On the left bank of the Meuse the activity on the part of the artillery of both sides became intense in the course of the day in the region of Hill 304. Preparations for an attack reported in the German trenches were broken up by our heavy machine gun fire.

On the right bank, the enemy continued to bombard our positions in the region of Vaux and Damouville and, with particular intensity, in the Bois Pommier. A German attack launched about 2 o'clock on the slopes of the Bois Pommier, northwest of the fort, was stopped by our machine gun fire. Three German aeroplanes were damaged by our anti-aircraft fire. One of the latter was brought down in our lines at Sanzeny. Two other enemy aeroplanes, struck by our machine gun fire, descended safely in the German line.

Aviation. Today, about noon, a group of German aeroplanes were seen near the Bois Pommier. One of them was killed and another injured. The material damage was of little importance. No aeroplanes were shot down. The German attack against the Bois Pommier was repulsed. The German attack against the Bois Pommier was repulsed. The German attack against the Bois Pommier was repulsed.

The official communiqué issued by the War Office this afternoon follows: On the right bank of the Meuse there were grenade combats last night. West of the Bois Pommier, toward the close of the day yesterday, after a violent bombardment, the enemy made an attempt to turn Fort Vaux from the southwest. The attack was launched at 8 o'clock in the evening between Damouville and the fort. The French, by a counter attack, delivered at once, completely recovered the lost positions.

On the left bank of the Meuse and on the east of the fort there was moderate activity on the part of the artillery of both sides.

500 FRENCH CAPTURED.

German Claim Gains in the Fighting Near Damouville.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, June 4.—The official statement issued by the German War Office today follows: English attacks in the region of the Bois Pommier, northwest of Fort Vaux, were repulsed. The artillery fighting north of Arras and on the east of the fort continued. English reconnoitering parties were repulsed.

Enemy nine explosions southeast of Neuville-St. Vaast, near the fort, were repulsed. Bombs dropped on the fort injured several soldiers. They did no military damage. Near Houlbecq an English aeroplane was brought down.

West of the Meuse a minor enemy attack west of Hill 304 was repulsed. We captured a machine gun.

East of the Meuse heavy fighting between the Bois de la Callette and Damouville resulted favorably for us. Five hundred prisoners, including three officers, and four machine guns were captured.

West of Marck (St. Marie-aux-Mines, in Haute-Alsace) the enemy made a gas attack.

BRITISH GET PRISONERS.

Pierce German Lines at Two Points—Loss Aeroplanes.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, June 4.—The following report from British headquarters in France was issued tonight by the official press bureau: Yesterday twenty-six of our aeroplanes were shot down in the Argonne. Considerable damage is believed to have been done. One machine was brought down. The remainder returned safely. Hostile aircraft were inactive.

Last night there was increased activity on the whole front. North of Arras, after heavy bombardment, a party of Germans, 200 strong, attacked our trenches and were driven back with considerable loss by our artillery and machine gun fire.

North of the River Aisne, about Serre, two small parties entered the German trenches and killed some of the occupants, returning with slight loss.

At Monchy-au-Bois and Neuville-St. Vaast, near the fort, the enemy's losses were heavy and returning with prisoners. Our artillery gave effective support to these enterprises.

The enemy captured nine at Fricourt and four at Houlbecq. No serious damage was done.

Today the enemy carried out a heavy attack in the region of the Bois Pommier, northwest of Fort Vaux, and also against our positions about Fricourt, Souchez and Loos.

The artillery engaged hostile batteries south of Lens and east of Arras. The situation about Ypres is not altered materially. There were no serious changes in the front.

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GERMAN SECONDARY SHIPS OUTCLASS BEST OF U. S. NAVY

Washington Experts Say American Fleet in Battle Like That Off Jutland Would Have Been Annihilated.

WASHINGTON, June 4.—The suggestion

of Admiral Dewey, as presented in his interview in The Sun, that the naval policy of the United States should be formulated in accordance with the lessons of the North Sea battle found general support from line officers of the service today.

A closer comparison of the ships of the United States navy with the ships engaged in the North Sea battle discloses weaknesses, according to American naval officers, which should be considered before the building programme of the pending naval bill is finally approved. In view of the information that has been obtained it is not improbable that the Senate Naval Affairs Committee will go over the entire bill again and will confer with naval experts.

Naval officers have pointed out that not only is it futile to match battle cruisers against battleships, but that the ships which the Admiralty statements of both Great Britain and Germany place in the second or third line are in speed and armament equal or superior to ships of the United States navy which must serve as a first line of defense.

Battleships the Vital Weapon.

The presence of the German fleet of battleships gave the initial victory to Germany. Not only is it not probable that the arrival of the more powerful British fleet of battleships promptly forced the victorious German squadron to turn back.

But aside from this cardinal lesson, the naval battle has emphasized other important points. It has shown, the experts say, that the United States navy is far inferior to the German navy in all types of craft, and emphasizes the need of a building programme designed to round out and complete the auxiliary as well as the main fighters on a far larger scale than has been contemplated.

Victor S. Churchill refers to the armored cruisers Black Prince, Defense and Warrior as belonging to the "third order of ships." They were vessels of the British Admiralty regarded as practically obsolete, so far as fighting with the most modern type of craft is concerned. Churchill does not consider them as well as the main fighters on a far larger scale than has been contemplated.

But these armored cruisers, practically of no value as far as a modern battle ship as the North Sea fight is concerned, were superior in armament and speed to the most modern armored cruisers which the United States navy possesses.

Our best armored cruisers are the Tennessee, Washington, Montana and North Carolina. They are equipped with eight-inch guns, which in regard to range and rate of fire are inferior to the armament of the Defense, Black Prince or Warrior, which carried six 8.2-inch guns. In point of speed none of the American armored cruisers has ever equaled the 23.5 knots made by the Black Prince, the 23.1 knots made by the Warrior or the 23.4 knots by the Defense.

1. S. Ships Outclassed. In brief, the armored British cruisers which the British Admiralty considered the best of their kind, the North Sea fight outclassed the best armored cruisers of our navy.

From German official sources comes the news that the German Admiralty does not regard the loss of the battleships.

The occupants, returning with slight loss.

At Monchy-au-Bois and Neuville-St. Vaast, near the fort, the enemy's losses were heavy and returning with prisoners. Our artillery gave effective support to these enterprises.

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CANADIANS HOLD LINE.

Bar Brunt of German Attack—Americans Fight Well.

By FRÉDÉRIC PALMER.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN. BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, June 3.—Around the famous Hill 60 and Sanctuary wood the Canadians have been doing the stiffest fighting of their experience in the course of the last two days attack. They held the entire front unbroken, and unless the attack spreads this is entirely their doing.

The German guns had been relatively quiet for some days, when suddenly they opened up the heaviest bombardment any Canadian soldier had known, using all kinds of artillery from heavy howitzers to trench mortars, not only battering the trenches but covering a wide area of ground in the rear to prevent the bringing up of supports.

"But it was not this time as in the earlier battles in the Ypres salient, when the German three or four heavy shells to our one," said an officer. "The British guns returned an equal volume of fire on the Germans after they were in our trenches."

Under the support of gun fire, after a night of fighting, at dawn the Canadians went into a counter attack, parties rushing in at different points, bombing and bayonetting their way right and left, and before the day's fierce work was ended had regained nearly all the front, according to the latest reports from the field, where the struggle in a maze of wrecked trenches and under the light of shell bursts continues.

BRITISH WON FIGHT, BERESFORD CLAIMS

Admiral Says Objective Was Gained When Germans Returned to Base.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, June 4.—Rear Admiral Charles Beresford, former First Sea Lord, gave the following interview tonight with regard to the North Sea battle.

"I have seen the pessimistic views in the newspapers and have heard similar ones expressed in private. There is no justification for them. The British objective was to sink the German fleet or compel it to return to its base, which it remained impotent since the war."

The indomitable Beatty, with his cruiser squadrons, attacked the German fleet, which was in the process of using a fleet in the control of the sea."

The naval critic of the Temps came closer to the mark when he said that the German fleet was in the process of using a fleet in the control of the sea."

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GERMAN LOSS 8, ENGLISH 14 SHIPS

Continued from First Page.

The main scene of action and occurred the night of the 1st of June, the first of June, it became evident that nothing more was to be done and he returned there to his base, 400 miles away, and refueled the fleet, and in the evening of June 2 was again ready to put to sea.

The British losses have already been fully stated. There is nothing to add to or subtract from the latest account of the Admiralty.

The enemy losses are less easily determined. That the accounts they have given are false is certain. We cannot yet be sure of the exact truth, but from such evidence as has come to our knowledge, the Admiralty estimates do not doubt that the German losses were heavier than the British, not merely relatively to the strength of the two fleets but absolutely.

There seems to be the strongest ground for supposing that included in the German losses are:

Two dreadnought battle cruisers of the most powerful type.

Two of the latest light cruisers, the Wiesbaden and the Elbing.

A light cruiser of the Rostock type.

The light cruiser Frauenlob.

At least nine destroyers.

One submarine.

The official list of the casualties among officers shows hardly a single officer of the Queen Mary, and the British cruiser sunk in the battle. An additional casualty list of petty officers shows that forty-three of them were killed. The names of the officers who were killed are: Captain, Commander, Lieutenant, and others.

The North Sea fight showed the effect of the arrival of Great Britain's super-dreadnoughts. Not one of these ships was seriously damaged. The warships, though torn with heavy shells from the German fleet, were able to remain in action and keep her going until the German fleet left the field and the super-dreadnoughts Marlbrough was able to make port, although hit by a torpedo.

Reports also indicated that the big German first line fighters were able to withstand all the fire directed against them. The extent of damage to them is not known, but was not serious enough apparently to cripple their fighting efficiency.

The opinion is advanced in naval circles that the American navy in combined strength endeavored to do what Rear Admiral Beatty attempted to do with the German fleet.

It is believed that Admiral Dewey's warning of the German fleet to the North Sea would have been followed by a British victory. The German fleet would have been driven back to its base.

The conclusion is clear that the English fleet is still ready for work, and the German fleet is in a state of confusion. The German fleet is in a state of confusion.

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GILBERT THIRD TIME FREE, GETS WELCOME IN PARIS

Continued from First Page.

The above pictures show the French aviator Gilbert in his first attempt last September. At that time the aviator got out of Switzerland by adopting various disguises, but the French Government sent him back because his application for release from parole had not been sanctioned by the Swiss Government. The photograph on the left shows Gilbert with a false beard disguised as a laborer; on the right as a chauffeur.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, June 4.—Eugene Gilbert, the French aviator, who for the third time escaped from a camp in Switzerland, where he was interned, arrived here today. He was greeted by a large crowd at the station.

He reported to the Ministry of War immediately after a reception and speechmaking at the station, arranged by a committee of Deputies, aviators and members of the Senate.

Eugene Gilbert was reported on May 25 by the Petit Parisien to have succeeded in escaping the third time from Switzerland, where he had been forced to remain for some time.

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Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, June 4.—"Everywhere there are signs of an impending infantry attack," is a significant sentence which closes an official statement issued tonight by the Austrian War Office, received here by wireless via Berlin.

All along the southwestern front in Russia, where the Tenth Army is defended chiefly by Austrians, the Russian heavy artillery has opened a violent fire and indications are that the Russians are planning a new offensive on a large scale against the Austrians, evidently with the view of making impossible the withdrawal of reinforcements for the Austrian offensive on the Trentino and possibly for the purpose of forcing the despatch of Austrian troops from that front to the Russian battle line.

At this time would also have an effect upon the Verdun fighting, where Austrian reinforcements were reported to have arrived last week.

The Russian artillery fire during the last twenty-four hours has been particularly violent on a front of twenty-five kilometers (about seventeen miles) near Olshanka. This town lies slightly to the southeast of the lower reaches of the Dnieper, in Tenth Army hands last fall, and due north of the fortress of Dubno, also captured in the great Tenth Army drive in the autumn of 1917.

The Russian attack in this region is facilitated by the base at Rovno, the third Volynian fortress, which the Austro-German forces have tried for months to approach. On the Galician front, which is defended exclusively by Austro-Hungarian troops, the Russian fire guns are equally active. The Austro-Hungarian statement follows:

On the remainder of the front as far as the Brenita there was artillery activity. The Carnic zone and on the Isonzo front there is nothing of importance to report.

The official statement issued by the Italian War Office follows:

On the Trentino front there were no artillery action and small infantry engagements.

In the Lagarina Valley as far as the Paganella front, our troops were repulsed. In the afternoon strong enemy masses launched an attack on our positions on the Paganella front, but were repulsed.

Along the Paganella and Asiago fronts, the enemy suffered very heavy losses. The enemy suffered very heavy losses. The enemy suffered very heavy losses.

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